GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2262
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY .
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Water Quality Assessment Authority to oversee the water related issues;

(b) if so, the composition thereof and the guidelines under which such authority function; and

(c) the extent to which the water related issues are likely to be solved?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition of members of the Authority as per an Extraordinary notification in the "The Gazette of India" dated 22.6.2001 is given below.

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests -Chairperson

2. Addl. Secretary and Project Director, National River Conservation Directorate, M/o Environment and Forests -Member

3. Chairman, Central Water Commission -Member

4. Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources -Member

5. Adviser, National River Conservation Directorate, M/o Environment and Forests. -Member

6. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation -Member

7 Joint Secy, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Poverty Alleviation -Member

8. Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority -Member

9. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board -Member

10. Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi -Member

11. Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur. -Member

12. Commissioner (Water Management), Ministry of Water Resources -Member Secretary

The Authority shall exercise the powers under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for issuing directions and for taking measures with respect to matters referred to in clauses (ix), (xi), (xii) and (xiii) of sub-section 2 of section 3 of the Act.

(c) The Authority shall direct the agencies (government /local bodies/non-governmental) for the following:

(1) to standardize method(s) for water quality monitoring and to ensure quality of data generation for utilization thereof;

(2) to take measures so as to ensure proper treatment of wastewater with a view to restoring the water quality of the river/water bodies to meet the designated-best uses;

(3) to take up research and development activities in the area of water quality management;

(4) to promote recycling/re-use of treated sewage/trade effluent for irrigation in development of agriculture;

(5) to draw action plans for quality improvement in water bodies, and monitor and review/assess implementation of the schemes launched/to be launched to that effect;

(6) to draw scheme(s) for imposition of restriction in water abstraction and discharge of treated sewage/trade effluent on land, rivers and other water bodies with a view to mitigating crisis of water quality;

(7) to maintain minimum discharge for sustenance of aquatic life forms in riverine system;

(8) to promote rain water harvesting;

(9) to utilize self-assimilation capacities at the critical river stretches to minimize cost of effluent treatment;

(10) to provide information to pollution control authorities to facilitate allocation of waste load;

(11) to review the status of quality of national water resources (both surface water & groundwater) and identify "Hot Spots" for taking necessary actions for improvement in Water Quality;

(12) to interact with the authorities/committees constituted or to be constituted under the provisions of the said Act for matters relating to management of water resources;

(13) to constitute/set-up State-level Water Quality Review Committees (WQRC) to coordinate the work to be assigned to such committees; and

(14) to deal with any environmental issue concerning surface and groundwater quality which may be referred to it by the Central Government or the State Government relating to the respective areas, for maintenance and/or restoration of quality to sustain designated-best-uses.